

R 230509Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0913
INFO AMEMBASSY DILI
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 000090

DEPT FOR DSERCC, DS/IP/ITA; DS/IP/EAP; DS/IP/FPO;
DS/PSP/FPD; DS/CC; EMBASSIES FOR RSO'S; CONSULATES FOR PSO'S

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AT CONSULATE PERTH

REF: A. 08 SYDNEY 285

[B](#). 09 CANBERRA 13

[C](#). 09 CANBERRA 34

[D](#). 09 CANBERRA 39

[E](#). 09 MELBOURNE 06

[1](#). On Thursday, January 22, 2009, at 12:30 PM, there was a demonstration described as peaceful but angry by the Pro-Palestine community in Australia at the Consulate Perth. The group, calling itself the "Friends of Palestine WA," consisted of about 55 people and was a mixture of all ages of men, women, and children. During the demonstration, the protesters made speeches denouncing the U.S. and Israel. They passed out leaflets which stated, "Lift the Siege," "Indict Israeli War Criminals," and "Aid for Gaza now!" The protesters condemned Israel's military actions against Hamas in Gaza. They left a small pile of shoes near the entrance of the office building housing the Consulate. The group delivered a letter to the Consulate which protested U.S. support of Israel and described the military action there as "wanton destruction and murder."

[2](#). Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Western Australian Police (WAPOL) support was exceptional, with police present for the duration of the protest. At the conclusion of the event, the demonstrators left the area without incident.

[3](#). POC regarding this incident is ARSO Canberra: Corbin Ellison; Office: 61-2-6214-5829.